GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2678
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of Censor Board has resigned some time ago and urgedthe Government to reform rules governing pornographic films;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to his suggestions;

(c) whether the Censor Board has not been functioning in an effective way to curb violence and sex in films; and

(d) if so, the new strategy being formulated to check such rising trends?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)
(a): Yes, Sir.
(b): In the process of considering suggestions to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, and the rules and guidelines relating to film certification, a committee formed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) had proposed to examine a suggestionto introduce a new certification category for soft pornographic films. The Governmenthad advised CBFC that consideration of this suggestion was neither desirable nor in order, whereupon the Chairman, CBFC resigned.Government policy on the content of films is laid down in the guidelines prescribed in terms of the Cinematograph Act, one of the objectives of which is that the medium of films should provide clean and healthy entertainment.
(c) & (d): Each film is examined by an Examining Committee which comprisesmembers of CBFC`s Advisory Panels, who are drawn from various segments of society. There is a set of extensive guidelines, which contain the criteria for certification. Although enforcement of the Cinematograph Act is a State Governmentresponsibility, yet CBFC had also hired a private detective agency, during 2001-2002, to carry out regular checks in theatres in the four metropolitan cities to detect cases of violation of the provisions of the Act and report the same to the concerned State authorities for prompt investigation and possible prosecution.